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at the Royal Society stating that the boring into the coral atoll of Funafuti had been discontinued on reaching a depth of 1,114 feet. Cores had been obtained, and the material traversed is described as 'coral reef' rock.

THE English papers state that arrangements are being made, under the direction of Signor Marconi, at the South Foreland lighthouse and on board the South Goodwin lightship for a series of experiments in wireless telegraphy. If the experiments are considered satisfactory, it is stated that the wireless system will be adopted forthwith as a means of communication between the South Foreland lighthouse and the South Sands Head lightship. The points of communication are about three miles apart.

THE *British Medical Journal* reports that M. Cruppi recently laid before the French Chamber of Deputies a bill for reforming medical expert evidence. M. Cruppi proposes that a list of medical experts should be drawn up every year. None but men of undoubted scientific ability should be on the list; the accused person should have the right to name his or her own expert, who should work in cooperation with the expert named by the Judge. In cases where the two experts do not agree the matter should be decided by a committee composed of eminent scientific men. The Commission of Judicial Reform is considering the question.

MEN of science will not be surprised to learn that an examination of the late John W. Keeley's exhibition room has brought to light tubes and other arrangements by which compressed air could have been used to run his motor. Wheels went round without doing any work and could have been readily turned by compressed air or in other ways, in the exhibition made some years ago to the present writer. It was at the time indicated that he would be given \$5,000 if he would state over his signature that the operations could not be accounted for by known natural forces.

It is stated in the daily papers that Mr. Elmer Gates, Washington, wishes to form a commercial company to obtain money to enable him to proceed with the invention of his microscope, which he is said to say magnifies 3,000,000 diameters.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

WE regret to learn that the California Courts have decided that the trust clause in the will of the late Adolph Sutro, giving Sutro Heights as a public park to the city of San Francisco, and San Miguel Ranch to support a scientific school, is invalid, and the property will now go into the residuary estate and be divided among six children. Perhaps these children will set the Courts an example by fulfilling the wishes of their father.

THE late Miss Rebecca Flower Squiers, of London, has bequeathed £2,000 for scholarships for students at Oxford or Cambridge, and the residue of her estate, the amount of which is not stated, for the benefit of these universities.

PROFESSOR CLEVELAND ABBE has given to the Johns Hopkins University his valuable collection of books, journals and pamphlets relating to meteorology. The library has also received an anonymous gift of \$5,000 for the purchase of books.

REV. DR. GEORGE E. MERRILL, of Newton, Mass., has accepted the call to the presidency of Colgate University, Hamilton, N. Y.

PROFESSOR J. B. JOHNSON, who holds the the chair of engineering in Washington University, St. Louis, has been called to the University of Wisconsin, where he will be made Dean of the College of Engineering.

MR. G. F. STOUT, Anderson lecturer on comparative psychology at Aberdeen and formerly lecturer on psychology at Cambridge, has been appointed to the newly established Wilde lectureship of mental philosophy at Oxford.

THE professorship of physics in the University of Sydney, New South Wales, is vacant. In accordance with the British custom, applications for the position, with eight copies of all testimonials, must be received not later than February 18th by Sir Daniel Cooper, acting agent-general for New South Wales, 9 Victoria St., London, S. W. The salary of the professorship is £900 per annum, with a conditional pension of £400. Candidates must be under 35 years of age. We presume that citizens of the United States are eligible.